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## ➤BOOK ❖NOTICES.❖◀

### STRACK'S GENESIS, EXODUS, AND LEVITICUS.\*

The first two parts of Professor Strack's valuable commentary, containing the two most important of the Books of Moses, indicate clearly enough this veteran scholar's general attitude to the Pentateuchal question. The results of critical analysis as respects the composition of Genesis and Exodus are accepted almost in toto as to the distribution of the matter between P. and JE. Only in a very few places is there divergence from the generally received arrangement as stated in Canon Driver's Introduction. The most noteworthy occurs in the Deluge story. Professor Strack cannot find an adequate reason why VII. 12-17 and VIII. 6-12 should not be assigned to P. The arrangement is exhibited in the text by the use of two different sets of type. The verses, however, mentioned above as probably belonging to P. are with strange inconsistency (unless it be owing to a printer's error) represented as belonging to JE. The complete separation of J. and E. is considered to be at present impossible, and therefore no attempt has been made to distinguish between these two authorities in the text. The analysis of modern criticism is followed up to a certain point, but many of its conclusions are decisively rejected. One example will illustrate our author's courage in opposing these "false inferences," as he calls them. Unlike most modern critics, he sees no contradiction between the two accounts of the creation and supports his contention by a strange, if not unnatural, rendering of Genesis II. 19. That verse is translated thus: "Therefore Yahveh Elohim brought every beast of the field and all birds of the heaven which he had made out of the ground to Adam to see what he would cry to them and whatever the man should cry to any living creature that should be its name." This singular method of construing the sentence is declared to be not only possible but necessary. Unless we are mistaken, the necessity will be far from obvious to many readers. It is stated in the preface that polemics have been avoided, but this is by no means wholly the case. The paragraph entitled "The Bible and Natural Science," (pp. 6 and 7) is strongly controversial. In fact the combative element in the Professor's nature has sometimes seriously interfered with judicial impartiality. The theological tone is in the main conservative. Those who deny the supernatural will find this commentary uncongenial. The Elohist account of creation, for instance, can only be accounted for, we are assured, on the assumption of revelation. It is neither the result of laborious speculation nor the product of poetic fancy. Its substance must repose on divine revelation. The arrangement differs a little from that observed in the well known commentaries of Orelli in this series. There is no continuous

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\* Kurzgefasster Kommentar herausgegeben von D. Hermann Strack and D. Otto Zöckler. Die Bücher Genesis, Exodus, und Leviticus I.-VI. ausgelegt von D. Hermann Strack. Erste und zweite Lieferung., pp. 304. München, 1894; Mk. 5.00.

exposition succeeding the text and the foot notes, but each section is followed by observations on the source or sources and when necessary by longer notes on points demanding fuller treatment. Some of these notes are capital specimens of wide and exact scholarship brought down to date. Some deal with Hebrew philology. Prominent among these are the notes on the use of the article (p. 94), the *Vav Consecutivum* (p. 81), the names of Abraham and Sarah (p. 57), the use of Elohim with the plural (pp. 67-8), the name El Shaddai (pp. 56-7), and the Tetragrammaton (pp. 181-184). The last named note supplies the student in two and a half pages with a mass of facts on the pronunciation, derivation, significance and history of this famous name, the statement and discussion of which could easily have been spread over ten times the space. Other notes are geographical or historical, as for instance, those on Ur of the Chaldees, Pithom and Rameses, the history of sacrifice before the legislation at Sinai, and the time, place, and manner of the Exodus. Others again are literary, several deal very helpfully with moral or doctrinal questions suggested by the text, and some are purely exegetical, such as the careful discussion of "the sons of Elohim" in Gen. vi. 2, and the learned note on "Shiloh" in Gen. xlix. 10. Special attention seems to have been given to recent research in Bible lands and many of its best results are duly noted and accepted, but it is rather startling to find Ur of the Chaldees located in the neighborhood of Haran, and the cities of the Plain in the Southern part of the Dead Sea. As to the time and place of the Exodus, Professor Strack agrees with most scholars in putting it after Rameses II. and follows M. Naville in fixing the spot at a place a little south of Lake Timsah, but has a very strange theory concerning the manner. Regarded as a whole, this commentary is extremely valuable on account of its rare combination of great learning, critical methods, moderate views and reverent faith.

W. TAYLOR SMITH.

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#### RIEHM'S HANDWOERTERBUCH DES BIBLISCHEN ALTERTUMS.\*

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Although the Germans move very slowly in some directions, they are undoubtedly far ahead of the rest of the world in their appetite for elaborate scientific literature and for revisions of existing works down to date. Whilst the great Bible Dictionary of the English-speaking race has undergone only one revision, and that extending over but a part of the work, in thirty years, the German publishers of Riehm's Dictionary began to issue a second and improved edition within eight years of the appearance of the first. Confining ourselves to the first volume of this new issue, it is possible, without doing an injustice either to the publishers or to the editor, to institute a comparison between the two forms of this deservedly popular work. The name of the scholar to whom the superintendence of the revision had been entrusted is in itself a guarantee of careful workmanship. An undertaking presided over by Professor Baethgen might reasonably be expected to be carried out in a scholarly manner, and the expectation has been fulfilled within the somewhat narrow limits to which the editor's activity has been confined. He was required by the publishers to avoid enlarge-

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\* Handwoerterbuch des Biblischen Altertums für gebildete Bibelleser herausgegeben von Dr. Eduard E. August Riehm. Zweite Auflage, besorgt von F. Baethgen. Vol. I., A.—Malloter.